

Chapter 1



Antonio was racing to get ready. It was the first track meet of the year. And he was late.

“Hurry up, Antonio,” Ana yelled. “You’re going to miss the bus!”

“One minute, Mom,” shouted Antonio. “I can’t find my shoes!”

“They’re by the front door,” Ana called out. “Let’s go!”

Antonio ran down the stairs. He

grabbed a banana. Then he put on his shoes.

Lilia was waiting for him. She'd been ready for over an hour.

It was a sunny Saturday morning. Antonio and Lilia were on the Rockdale Heights track team. They had a meet at Newport High in the afternoon.

Ana drove them to school. The team met in the school parking lot. They were all taking a bus to Newport. It was about an hour away.

"Sorry we can't make the meet today," Ana said. "Your dad and I have to talk with the builder. But we'll be at the next one."

"That's okay, Mom," Lilia said. "We have a lot of meets left."

“Good luck!” Ana shouted. Then she drove away.

The kids climbed aboard the bus. The coaches checked off their names as they got on.

“Everybody’s here,” Coach Rome said. “Let’s go!”

Coach Fine, the girls’ coach, gave everyone a pep talk. The Heights had a great track team. They all worked hard. They wanted to win.

At Newport High, Coaches Rome and Fine led the kids in warm-ups.

The meet went great. Rockdale Heights won. Lilia and Antonio won their races too. It was going to be a good season for the Heights track team. They even had a shot at the state championship.

The team boarded the bus to go home. The coaches made sure no one was left behind. At four o'clock the bus left Newport High.

The bus should have arrived at Rockdale Heights at five o'clock. But it didn't. Some of the parents were worried. They called their kids' cell phones. But they all went right to voicemail.

Two hours later, parents started to panic. They called the police. They looked everywhere between Rockdale and Newport. But there was no sign of the bus.

Everyone was scared and confused. A bus with over fifty people on it had vanished.